30th March 1954]

Stopping of ' thira ', an annual religious festival, in Mannathamparamb kovil on account of the Governor's stay at Kozhikode.

* 480 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on account of the stay of the Governor of Madras at the bungalow in the Florical Hill, Kozhikode, Malabar, on 6th February 1954, during his recent tour in Malabar, the Police authorities of Chevayoor Police station, Kozhikode, threatened the trustees of Mannathamparamb kovil and asked them to stop ' thira ' (religious annual festival) in the kovil on that day?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know from which source the Hon. Minister got the report of the incident? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" From official sources, Sir."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware that in Malabar even the newspapers were publishing this report and the district officers did not contradict that report? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" What is published in the newspapers cannot be taken as gospel truth. The hon. Member knows what are published in the newspapers. We have verified it and there is no basis for the allegation made by the hon. Member."

Sea erosion in Beypore town, Malabar.

* 481 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of damages caused by sea erosion in Beypore town in Malabar for the last five financial years;

(*b*) whether any permanent measures are contemplated by the Government to check this erosion at the place; and

(*c*) if so, the cost of the same and the present stage of the proposal?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) There was some erosion in Beypore only during the last two financial years. In July 1952, the sea encroached to a distance of about one furlong and caused damages to 9 fishermens huts and uprooted 115 coconut trees. In July 1953, the sea further advanced by about half a furlong in the same area and uprooted 147 coconut trees and damaged 9 huts.

" (*b*) No Sir, the silt brought down by the river during the period of the north-east monsoon will get deposited along the margin of the sea shore and the sea shore can be expected

to maintain itself, if the north-east monsoon is normal. The site is also not important and the lands affected are Government lands.

" (c) Does not arise."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Have Government taken or going to take any preventive measures to check further soil erosion? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, Government decided not to take any preventive measures. The preventive measures if taken for constructing a permanent revetment to check soil erosion would cost the Government Rs. 1,80,000. The Government did not consider this very important. For the two years in which the huts were destroyed due to soil erosion, fishermen were paid Rs. 100 in 1952 and Rs. 135 in 1953 out of the State funds for them and their families."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know whether this subject of checking soil erosion concerns the Central Government, Provincial Government or local bodies or municipalities? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It may be the duty of the State Government as well as the Central Government, Sir. We could get something out of the Central funds also."

Transfer of tractors to the Bellary district on the eve of the formation of the Andhra State.

* 482 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the number of tractors that were transferred to Bellary district on the eve of the separation of Andhra State; and

(b) at what places they were stationed at the time and the reasons why they were in those places then?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Apparently the hon. Member refers to the tractors moved to Bellary district from other districts in the then Composite State of Madras during 1953 in connexion with the Pilot Reclamation Scheme in the Kampli area. Fifteen tractors were temporarily diverted to Bellary district.

" (b) The units were stationed at Kampli and were used for the mechanized reclamation of a compact block of 6,000 acres in the Kampli area in the ayacut of the Tungabadhra Project."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know the steps taken to get back these tractors from the Andhra to this State? May I know whether it could be done only with the influence of Sri Trivedi? "